

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

U. S. Biological Survey
Congratulates Boys
on "Good Job."

CCC boys, developing the White River Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Phillips, Arkansas, Desha and Monroe counties in Arkansas, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the CCC.

The White River Camps are joining other camps throughout the nation this week (March 31 to April 5) in celebrating the anniversary and invite public to visit the camps during an "open house" celebration (insert date) to see the progress being made at this Arkansas wildlife refuge. Here, the CCC boys, under the direction of the Biological Survey, are working to improve the refuge as they are in 31 other camps on refuges over the United States. They are making the refuges easier to administer and more attractive to wildlife.

"CCC boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "are familiar figures in many localities. The public is becoming acquainted with them and their work and can see the beneficial effect camp training has in preparing the boys for good citizenship. It also is learning of their great contribution to the wildlife program."

The White River Refuge, in southeastern Arkansas, lies near the junction of the White and Mississippi Rivers. It is one of the greatest winter duck concentration areas in the Mississippi flyway and of tremendous value to migratory waterfowl in both spring and fall. Although

much work still remains to be done at this refuge, the numbers of waterfowl using the area have greatly increased the past two years. The primary problem of the sanctuary is to provide an adequate supply of natural waterfowl feed in order to keep the birds from visiting nearby rice fields for feed.

The White River Refuge given inviolate sanctuary status, by Executive Order of September 4, 1935 after some 98,000 acres had been acquired under purchase agreement, is a major refuge in the nation-wide system of migratory bird and waterfowl refuges. CCC work consists among other tasks of stabilizing water levels and protecting existing lakes. In the past, some of the best lakes have filled with silt and become useless to waterfowl.

Camps BR-1 and 2 started work July, 1936. A third camp, BR-3, began work in December of 1936. The three have constructed 15 vehicle and 2 foot bridges, erected 3 equipment and supply storage houses and 3 garages along with 20 other necessary buildings. Three dwellings are partially finished and 8 diversion dams are ready for use, and 8 more are nearing completion.

Excavating material for earth fills, building fence and handling more than 22,000 cubic yards of material in levees, dikes and jetties has kept the boys busy. A total of 33-1/2 miles of telephone ^{line} have been built as well as 51 miles of truck and 9 miles of foot trails. Fire control has been augmented by 27 miles of fire break.

More than a million square yards of channel have been cleared and cleaned as well as other excavation work in canals and ditches. Boundaries have been marked, linear and topographic surveys have been completed and mosquito and erosion control work afford varied occupations

for the CCC.

Nearly a ton of flower, grass and hardwood seed have been collected and 247 acres were cleared by the boys for a reservoir site. In addition, they have planted 718 acres to seed and cover and have prepared 180 acres for seeding and planting. When it is realized that 1,547 man-days were devoted to wildlife feeding alone, it is obvious that the migratory wildlife's food problem have not been overlooked.

Preparation and transportation of materials, razing undesirable structures and fine grading road slopes are among the other tasks that have employed the three crews.

The camp workers, also, have done well for themselves. At least 17 of the enrollees have obtained private employment in work for which they were trained by the technical personnel.

"Such results," says Dr. Gabrielson, "help to make the waterfowl that use the great Mississippi flyway certain of necessary rest and food in their migratory movements. It insures the continuance and increase of year round residents. Five years ago, when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program, but neither the means nor the man-power to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuge areas became available and about the same time the CCC help for developing the refuges. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."